

Message Text

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43

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0547

WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0360

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON OCTOBER
29, 1974

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY REPORT ON INFORMAL SESSION
WITH EASTERN REPS ON OCTOBER 29, 1974. FULL TEXT
OF REPORT BEING SENT BY AIRGRAMBRD

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE OCTOBER 29 INFORMAL SESSION
OF THE VIENNA MBFR TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED
BY THE NETHERLANDS REP, UK REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST
BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK,
AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN. EASTERN REPS SOUGHT TO STRESS
THE VIRTUES OF THEIR INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL.

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ALLIED REPS POINTED OUT THAT MAJOR ASPECTS OF EASTERN

PROPOSAL WERE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL WITH FIRST STAGE OF EASTERN NOVEMBER 8 DRAFT AGREEMENT AS WELL AS JUNE EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL WHICH ALLIED REPS HAD ALREADY INDICATED WERE UNACCEPTABLE. THEY ASKED EAST HOW IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES EAST COULD EXPECT ALLIES TO CONSIDER THEIR INITIAL REDUCTION PROPOSAL TO BE EITHER NEW OR MORE ACCEPTABLE.

2. TOWARDS THE END OF THE SESSION, AFTER PROMPTING BY UK AND US REPS, KHLESTOV PRESENTED EASTERN POSITION ON ALLIED SUGGESTION FOR REVISION IN DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES. HIS PREPARED REMARKS WERE UNCHARACTERISTICALLY PRECISE, POSSIBLY INDICATING THAT THEY HAD BEEN PREPARED IN MOSCOW OR BY PACT MILITARY EXPERTS IN VIENNA. KHLESTOV SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES FOLLOW THE LOGIC OF THEIR OWN APPROACH AND REDUCE THEIR TOTAL FIGURE FOR PACT GROUND FORCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR SUGGESTED REVISION. HE SAID ALLIES WOULD NOT HAVE HAD THE DIFFICULTIES THEY HAD WITH GROUND FORCE DEFINITION IF THEY FOLLOWED REALITIES OF THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND INCLUDED AIR FORCES IN THEIR REDUCTION PROPOSAL; AND THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO DEAL WITH FORCE DEFINITIONS AND DATA AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. US REP SAID IT WOULD NOT MAKE SENSE TO DEDUCT POLISH AND CZECHOSLOVAK GROUND-BASED AREA AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL FROM GROUND FORCE TOTALS IF THOSE GROUND FORCE TOTALS WERE NOT GOING TO BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR REDUCTIONS AND THAT INCLUSION OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER WOULD NOT ACT TO REDUCE OVERALL DISPARITIES CAUSED BY GROUND FORCE DISPARITY, BECAUSE TOTAL AIR FORCE MANPOWER ON BOTH SIDES WAS SIMILAR WITH SLIGHT ADVANTAGE TO EAST. HE SAID THAT THE ALLIED DATA ON NATO AND PACT GROUND FORCES WERE SUBJECT TO CONTINUING REVIEW AND THAT RECENT REVIEW HAD INDICATED A SLIGHT INCREASE OF ABOUT THE SAME DIMENSION IN THE TOTALS FOR BOTH NATO AND PACT GROUND FORCES, THUS CONFIRMING THE SIZE OF THE DISPARITY BETWEEN GROUND FORCE TOTALS OF BOTH SIDES. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS IN EASTERN INTEREST TO ADVANCE DATA OF THEIR OWN IF THEY DID NOT CONSIDER ALLIED FIGURES CORRECT.

4. SPEAKING FROM CAREFULLY PREPARED TEXTS, KLEIN AND STRULAK ADVANCED WHAT HAS BECOME THE STANDARD CASE FOR EASTERN
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INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL: (A) THE VIENNA TALKS WERE DEADLOCKED; (B) BOTH SIDES WISHED FORWARD MOVEMENT; (C) IT WAS NECESSARY TO FIND SOME COMPROMISE APPROACH TO MOVE THE TALKS; (D) THE INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL IS THE VEHICLE FOR SUCH A COMPROMISE; (E) THE EAST HAS HAS TAKEN WESTERN INTERESTS INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVELOPING THIS PROPOSAL; (F) IN RESPONSE TO THESE INTERESTS, EAST HAS AGREED THAT THE US AND USSR CAN IMPLEMENT THEIR REDUCTIONS FIRST AND HAS

DEPARTED FROM THE PRINCIPLE THAT EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT SHOULD UNDERTAKE REDUCTIONS PROPORTIONATE TO ITS TOTAL SHARE OF EACH

SIDE BY AGREEING THAT THE US WOULD TAKE 10,000 REDUCTIONS ALONG WITH THE USSR; (G) EAST HAD ALSO COMPLIED WITH WESTERN DESIRE TO HAVE TWO SEPARATE SUCCESSIVE STAGES OF NEGOTIATION.

5. IN DISCUSSION, KHLESTOV ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FOR PURPOSES OF THE INITIAL STEP ONLY, THE EAST HAD ESTABLISHED TWO CATEGORIES OF PARTICIPANTS, THE US AND USSR ON THE ONE SIDE AND REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ON THE OTHER. KELIN AND STRULAK STATED THAT SECOND PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST WITHOUT, HOWEVER, INDICATING WHAT THEY SPECIFICALLY HAD IN MIND BY THE WORD "CONCLUSION." STRULAK PRESENTED A REASONED CASE AGAINST COLLECTIVE ALLIANCE CEILINGS. HE SAID THAT THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOT BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT AS CONTRACTING PARTNERS BUT RATHER, THAT AGREEMENTS WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY ELEVEN INDIVIDUAL AND SOVEREIGN DIRECT PARTICIPANT STATES AND THAT FOR ANY ONE OF THESE STATES TO REDUCE ITS FORCES WHILE RESERVING THE RIGHT TO INCREASE THEM AGAIN WOULD VITIATE THE ENTIRE PURPOSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. KHLESTOV'S REMARKS ON THE FORCE DEFINITION ISSUE WERE APPARENTLY INTENDED TO BE A PRESENTATION WHICH WOULD CONCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE TOPIC AT THIS TIME. BUT KHLESTOV AND OTHER EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WERE CLEARLY INTERESTED BY REMARKS OF ALLIED REPS ON THIS TOPIC AND COMMENTED AS SESSION WAS BREAKING UP THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED MUCH "FOOD FOR THOUGHT" DURING IT.

7. IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD THE NEXT INFORMAL SESSION
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ON NOVEMBER 5. END SUMMARY.RESOR

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